

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-20

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: CMNAGAO

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 236933

TODEP 14

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH, KENNETH)

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 3 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

REF: STATE 236927(TODEP 13)

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING  
DECEMBER 3:

BEGIN QUOTE.

Q: A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, UPON LEAVING A SENATE COMMITTEE, I BELIEVE, THE SECRETARY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE HAS A SET OF PRINCIPLES IN MIND FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. THAT TYPE OF THINKING IS REVIVED BY THE TIMES TODAY, WHICH AGAIN SPEAKS OF HIM GOING WITH SOME SORT OF A FRAMEWORK IN MIND. NOT BEING EXACTLY A CATALYST ENTIRELY BUT A PROPOSER--A PERSUADER, MAYBE--CAN YOU TELL US NOW IF THE SECRETARY, WHEN AND IF HE GOES TO THE MIDDLE EAST, WILL GO WITH SOME SORT OF A FRAMEWORK OR A SERIES OF PRINCIPLES--IF NOT A SPECIFIC PLAN IN MIND--TO PUT BEFORE THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS?

A(MR. VEST): BARRY, I DON'T THINK I CAN GO MUCH BEYOND

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WHAT HE HIMSELF SAID. HE HAS MADE IT VERY CLEAR HE HAS

PRINCIPLES AND SETS OF IDEAS; BUT THE IMPLICATION OF THE STORY, AS I READ IT, WAS THERE WAS A NEAT US PACKAGE. AND

THERE IS NO US PACKAGE BEING PROPOSED AT THIS POINT. NOW, THAT DOESN'T PRECLUDE LATER ON, AS NEGOTIATIONS AND TALKS EMERGE, THAT WE MAY NOT HAVE IDEAS THAT WE THINK WILL MEET THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED. BUT, AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE IS NO US PACKAGE, AND WE'RE EXACTLY IN THE SITUATION HE DESCRIBED.

Q: I TAKE IT, MR. VEST, YOU MEAN A PLAN?

A: YES. I READ THE STORY TO MEAN THERE WAS A PACKAGE WITH A PROPOSAL, A PLAN, WHICH WE WERE OR ARE ADVOCATING. AND THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO PUT MY FINGER ON.

Q: MR. VEST, THAT QUESTION ASSUMED A VISIT BY MR. KISSINGER TO THE MIDDLE EAST. CAN YOU CONFIRM OR ADD ANYTHING TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THAT?

A: I CAN ONLY SAY THAT PERHAPS BY TOMORROW I WILL HAVE AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON WHAT FURTHER VISITS THE SECRETARY MAY MAKE. I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM AUTHORITATIVELY ANYTHING TODAY.

END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 04 DEC 1973  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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